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## SPORTS

Exit Crazy Goran,  
Enter IvanisevicBy Ian Thomsen  
International Herald Tribune

WIMBLEDON, England — He almost was running to the baseline. They would search to a halt, bounce the ball once to make sure it was still in the air, toss it in the air — and then it would disappear. The only proof that it hadn't disappeared into the future was its sound, not unlike a matchstick igniting. Then in a blink it would reappear, dumping off of the back wall.

While Stefan Edberg looked down and fingered the perfect round hole in his racket strings, Goran Ivanisevic was already in the air. It was a couple of punch lines short of being a cartoon, this quarterfinal at Wimbledon, and the star — tall, skinny, goofy, unstoppable, hilarious — was Goran Ivanisevic. He served 33 aces Wednesday. No. 8 seed Goran Ivanisevic, 6 feet 4 inches (1.93 meters) tall, 20 years old, is a semifinalist at Wimbledon.

"He just goes out and hits it," Edberg, the No. 2 seed, said after his 6-7 (12-10), 7-5, 6-1, 3-6, 6-3 loss to Ivanisevic. "That's all he does. He bounces it once or twice and then boom!"

But the question — and no observer could be certain of its answer — was whether Ivanisevic expended any thought before serving. That, perhaps, he might just as easily have served aces while blindfolded — or while turning to smile for the court-side photographers at impact — or with his back to the net, and a line judge holding up a mirror for him. "He'd better not be thinking," Edberg said. "He just goes up there and takes no preparation, just goes up and hits it."

"Oh, sure," Ivanisevic said. "Before I hit the serve, I think, 'Where am I going to hit it? Because when you throw the ball, you cannot change anymore. So when I'm bouncing the ball, then I say, 'Now I'm going to hit it to the forehand.'"

If he was thinking, then these were the same effortless thoughts you see in the gambling movies, when the pool shark walks up around the table, knocking in three or four balls with every shot. The serves come so easily to Ivanisevic. This is not to say that the match was without difficulty. The entire time he was beating Edberg, those who know Ivanisevic were wondering whether he was only setting himself up to lose. Though he says they should no longer worry.

"I'm very confident, so I'm not getting, I mean, crazy," Ivanisevic said. "I mean, before, last year for example, when I played bad, I mean, I missed one or two shots and then I finished, I cannot come back. But this year, as soon as I started to play good, I played really good."

He recalled, for example, this tournament two years ago, when he also qualified for the semifinal. He was on the verge of taking the first two sets from Boris Becker. But Ivanisevic understands now why he could not win that day. He was 18. Plus, he was crazy.

"It was like I came to the court like going to the cinema," he said. "It was good fun, you know, especially when it's a good movie. You have good fun. I had great fun there, and I didn't believe I could win."

If that was like attending an enjoyable movie, then, we wanted to know, as to pretend to understand him better, what has been his most enjoyable movie?

"Last night, I saw a lot of movies. 'Basic Instinct,'" he said.

I T WOULD HAVE been helpful to know which aspects of the movie he identified with, for instance, whether he carries an ice pick in his trunk. But instead, everyone simply turned red, and the subject was not addressed further.

The point he was attempting to make, obviously, was that, as a teenager, he did not maintain his composure. He did not know how to focus. If everything was fine, then it was Hollywood. If anything went wrong, then he required sedation.

"I was watching some matches from last year, and I saw me on the court," he said. "I was really bad. I mean, I was really, like, 'I'm not playing tennis.' It was complaining too much."

Only by watching himself on videotape did he discover that he was like, "some guy who came from another planet, some strange guy."

"I mean, I didn't believe it was me," he said. "I mean, I was really — everything — the way I was walking, the way I was playing, the way — everything — it was really bad. I said, 'You have to change that, otherwise I will be a loser.'"

Otherwise, the movie would have been "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," with Goran eating his pillow at the end.

With the help of his coach of one year, Bob Brett, he has learned to articulate his goals.

"I never talked to anybody before," he said. "Now I have to explain to him everything." He also was carrying the Yugoslav war into his matches, as if he, too, should be at war, somehow defending his homeland of Croatia.

"I was so angry at everything," he said, "and then when I came on the court I was more angry and I wanted to beat the guy. It didn't matter who he was. But it helped me a lot, because I was thinking that it was easier for me, those problems were really tough. But now I have this feeling — I mean, I really don't need any more. Now I hope they are going to finish that war and the people can lead a normal life there."

All of these ideas funneled down his left arm and into his racket on Wednesday. He lost the first set in a 22-point tiebreaker, and the match appeared to be one from which Edberg might survive by making the fewest mistakes. In the second set he dropped his shorts — which apparently is not against the club rules, although next year it probably will be — so that a padding could be wrapped around his mysteriously injured right hip. Then he argued a call with the umpire, fingering his hip to the ground. It is important to note, however, he was not crazy.

"He goes and gets strapped around his back, then his three aces the next game," Edberg said. "I hope I have that problem, too."

He snatched a backhand return past Edberg's right ear to break him for the second set, and he broke Edberg twice more in the third. Finally, in the eighth game of the fourth set, in the 142nd minute of play, Edberg at last broke the seemingly unbreakable serve. But he could not break it again. It is, said Edberg, the best serve in tennis today.

"I am always a little bit rushing," Ivanisevic explained. "I mean, I'm taking his time. You can drink a coffee until he serves. I can slow it down too, but..."

But that would be crazy.

Swiss Maintain '98 Cup Bid  
On the Eve of FIFA's Vote

The Associated Press

BERN — Switzerland on Wednesday reaffirmed its bid to host the 1998 World Cup despite speculation that it would pull out of the race. "It would be wrong to drop our candidacy at the last minute because it would distort the vote," said Freddy Krumm, president of the Swiss Soccer Federation, referring to the vote on the World Cup site. He made his announcement after a meeting between the soccer federation's central committee and backers of the Swiss World Cup bid.

Soccer's world governing body, FIFA, is to vote Thursday on which country should host the tournament. The other two candidates are France and Morocco.

In Zurich, Russia was named to replace the former Soviet Union in European qualifying play for the 1994 World Cup. FIFA also extended its ban on Yugoslavia for international games. Yugoslavia extended its ban on Yugoslavia for international games. Yugoslavia extended its ban on Yugoslavia for international games.

will miss the World Cup unless United Nations sanctions imposed a month ago are lifted before its first qualifying game Sept. 2, said FIFA's general secretary, Joseph Blatter.



A jubilant Goran Ivanisevic after he upset Stefan Edberg, a two-time winner, to roar into the semis.

Stich and Edberg Fall  
On Bad Day for ChampsCompiled by Our Staff From Dispatches  
WIMBLEDON, England — It was a cruel day for champions at Wimbledon on Wednesday.

Pete Sampras, who had never gone past the second round in three previous appearances, eliminated Michael Stich, the defending champion, 6-3, 6-2, 6-4.

Goran Ivanisevic served 33 aces to topple the two-time champion Stefan Edberg, 6-7 (12-10), 7-5, 6-1, 3-6, 6-3.

Two other former champions, Boris Becker and John McEnroe, were headed in opposite directions when their quarterfinal matches were halted by rain.

McEnroe was leading Guy Forget, 6-2, 5-5, while Andre Agassi was leading Becker, 4-6, 6-2, 6-3, 4-6. The matches were to be resumed Thursday.

Not that Becker minds interrupted matches. A master of five set victories, he thrashed Wayne Ferreira of South Africa 6-1 in the deciding set of a fourth round match poised at two sets apiece overnight earlier this week.

The defeats of Edberg and Stich, following No. 1 Jim Courier's

third-round loss, mean that none of the top three men's seeds have made it to the final four.

In the women's draw, it took two minutes for third-seeded Gabriela Sabatini to finish off Jennifer Capriati in a quarterfinal match suspended by darkness Tuesday evening.

Sabatini, leading 6-1, 3-6, 5-3, held serve to love to complete the victory. On match point, Capriati hit a forehand serve return into the net.

"She played good points," said Capriati, the sixth seed. "It was exactly the way the match was going the night before."

The players waited more than 17 hours to play the final four points. "It was kind of weird," Capriati said. "It was a real bummer."

Sabatini will face Steffi Graf, the defending champion, in one semifinal Thursday, with Monica Seles playing Martina Navratilova in the other.

Sampras put on a dominant serve-and-volley performance against Stich.

"He just killed me," the German

But Mills ordered play to continue. Sampras held at love in the first game and broke in the second when Stich double faulted at 15-40. Stich complained loudly that the call was late.

Serving for the match, Sampras went up 40-0. He double faulted on his first match point, but converted on the second with a deep second serve that Stich couldn't handle.

As Sampras looked at his arms in triumph, Stich refused to shake hands with the umpire.

Sampras served eight aces, and his first-serve percentage was 83 percent.

The Ivanisevic-Edberg match was a chance for the Croatian to show off his mighty left-handed serve. His 33 aces brought his total for the tournament to 133.

The key game in the final set came when Ivanisevic broke serve for a 5-3 lead — with a bit of luck. He hit two net cords during one winning point, and got the break on a return that hit the top of the net and skipped past a charging Edberg.

Ivanisevic erased two break points in the next game and served out the match.

(AP, Reuters)

## Maddux and Drabek Show Their Worth

The Associated Press

Greg Maddux and Doug Drabek, two of the highest-paid pitchers in baseball, have had some low moments this season. Billed as the aces of their staffs, they have struggled to stay above .500.

On Tuesday night, however, they looked like a million bucks. That's about one fourth of their annual salaries, but 100 percent of what their teams needed.

Maddux pitched a four-hitter and matched his career high with 10 strikeouts as the Chicago Cubs beat the New York Mets, 3-1.

Drabek pitched a three-hitter and struck out nine as Pittsburgh blanked St. Louis 2-0 in only two hours and 13 minutes.

Drabek struck out Brian Jordan four times in his second shutout and third complete game of the season. He gave up a pair of

singles to Felix Jose and a double to Craig Wilson before retiring the last 14 batters. Maddux got his fourth victory in his last five starts and went all the way for the fourth time this season.

In Chicago, pinch-hitter Luis Salazar drove in the tie-breaking run in the eighth with a

**NATIONAL LEAGUE**  
sacrifice fly as the Cubs won their third straight.

In St. Louis, the Pirates scored both of their runs in the fourth off Rhee Cormier.

Brewers 4, Giants 3: In San Francisco, Otis Nixon and Terry Pendleton hit consecutive fifth-inning homers and John Smoltz won his fourth straight decision as Atlanta beat the slumping Giants, who lost for the 13th time in 16 games.

## The Rangers Rack Up a Record, 16-13

The Associated Press

For years, Texas Rangers pitchers used to loosen up by throwing footballs. That was part of coach Tom House's unique — some said odd — conditioning program.

The Rangers no longer play football before baseball games. It's just that the scores look that way sometimes.

Texas won by a field goal Tuesday night in Toronto, outlasting the Blue Jays 16-13 in the highest-scoring game in Rangers' history.

Ruben Sierra went 4 for 5 with two doubles and a triple as Texas set season highs for hits (20) and runs. Dickie Thon, who homered, Dean Palmer and Sierra each drove in three runs for the Rangers.

Texas broke it open early with a touch-

down and a safety in the third inning, scoring nine runs for a 10-1 lead. Joe Carter and Pat Borders hit three-run homers for Toronto, which had 12 hits.

Twins 2, Angels 0: Bill Krueger pitched the best game of his eight-year career, a two-

**AMERICAN LEAGUE**  
hitter that led Minnesota to its fifth straight victory, all on the road.

Athletics 4, Mariners 2: Jose Canseco, expected to go on Oakland's disabled list on Wednesday, hit his 18th home run and Bob Welch and Dennis Eckersley shut down the Mariners on six hits in Seattle.

Red Sox 5, Tigers 2: Rookie Bob Zupcic hit his first major-league grand slam, a one-

out shot in the ninth that rallied Boston at Fenway Park.

Orioles 12, Brewers 3: Jeff Tackett homered, doubled and drove in five runs as Baltimore built a 10-0 lead after three innings to beat Milwaukee at Camden Yards.

Every Baltimore starter reached base except Cal Ripken, whose 17-game hitting streak ended.

Yankees 6, Royals 0: Scott Sanderson controlled Kansas City, pitching a four-hitter in New York.

Indians 5, White Sox 4: Carlos Martinez singled through a drawn-in infield with one out in the bottom of the ninth for the winning run as Chicago lost for only the second time in 16 games.

## SCOREBOARD

## BASEBALL

## Major League Standings

## AMERICAN LEAGUE

## East Division

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Toronto	45	31	.592	0
Baltimore	44	32	.579	1
Minnesota	39	37	.506	6
New York	37	39	.487	8
Chicago	36	40	.474	9
Seattle	31	45	.403	14

## West Division

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Minnesota	45	31	.592	0
Chicago	44	32	.579	1
Texas	40	36	.526	5
California	37	39	.487	8
Kansas City	32	44	.421	13
Seattle	31	45	.403	14

## NATIONAL LEAGUE

## East Division

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Pittsburgh	40	36	.526	0
St. Louis	37	39	.487	3
Atlanta	35	41	.459	5
New York	34	42	.446	6
Pennsylvania	34	42	.446	6

## West Division

Team	W	L	Pct.	GB
Cincinnati	44	32	.579	0
Atlanta	42	34	.556	2
San Diego	41	35	.539	3
San Francisco	34	42	.446	10
Los Angeles	32	44	.421	12
San Diego	31	45	.403	13

## Tuesday's Line Scores

## AMERICAN LEAGUE

San Diego	41	50	.452
San Francisco	34	40	.459
Houston	35	42	.455
Los Angeles	37	43	.463





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## Saddam Que

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# Canadians Take Stake In Matra

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